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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Michael Reasoner

Serial No.: 08/573,561

Group Art Unit: 3502

Filed: 12/15/95

Examiner: Vinh T. Luong

For: CONDUIT SHORTENING ADJUSTMENT ASSEMBLY

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

JAN 22 1997

GROUP 3500

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated 12/02/96, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Amended) A motion transmitting remote control assembly (10) [of the] type for transmitting motion in a curved path[by a motion transmitting core element], said assembly comprising:

first (14) and second (16) conduit sections;

a flexible motion transmitting core element (12) movably supported in said conduit sections;

EXHIBIT # 2

adjustment components (18,20) interconnecting said first and second conduit sections (14, 16) and in telescoping relationship with each other for adjusting the overall length of said first and second conduit sections;

[said assembly characterized by] a coil spring (22) interacting [with] in tension between said adjustment components (18, 20) to bias said components together to shorten the overall length of said first and second conduit sections (14, 16).

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2. (Amended) An assembly as set forth in claim 1 including [wherein said adjustment components include first (14) and second (16) telescoping members,] a retainer (24) for retaining said spring (22) in compression on one of said telescoping members [during assembly thereof].

3. (Amended) An assembly as set forth in claim 2 wherein said adjustment components include an abutment (19) for reacting with said spring (22) in place of said retainer (24) [upon assembly of said telescoping members so that] to bias said telescoping members [are biased] together in the direction to shorten the overall length of said conduit sections.

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6. (Amended) An assembly as set forth in claim 5 wherein said locking member (19) includes a tunnel (30) extending therethrough for receiving[,] said retainer (24) [being movable] through said tunnel (30) during telescoping movement of said male and female members (18 and 20) in the conduit lengthening direction to allow said abutment on said locking member (19) to react with said spring (22).

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8. (Amended) An assembly as set forth in claim 7 wherein said spring (22) [is a coil spring (22)] spiraled around said male member (18) and includes[ing] an annular

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collar (26) reacting axially between said retainer (24) and said spring (22) [during assembly] and for reacting between said spring (22) and said locking member (19) [during adjustment of the overall length of said conduit sections].

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 16 remain in the application, claim 1 being the only independent claim.

The claims have been amended to avoid the section 112 rejections by basically deleting objectionable language. However, it is respectfully submitted that the claim language is proper as function is allowed by the statute to distinguish claims over the prior art. Nonetheless, the claims do structurally distinguish over the prior art.

The prior art is simply devoid of any suggestion of employing a spring in a telescoping conduit of a remote control assembly to urge the conduit sections together. In all prior art systems the conduit sections are urged apart.

Therefore, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly bring out this distinction and to incorporate limitations indicated as allowable by the Examiner. More specifically, the Examiner indicated claims 8-16 to be allowable thereby indicating the limitations of claim 8 setting forth patentable subject matter. The important limitation in claim 8 which more specifically defines the invention is the "coil" spring. Claim 1 has been amended to include the coil spring and that it is in tension between the adjustment components (18, 20) to bias the components together to shorten the overall length of the first and second conduit sections (14, 16). The coil spring in tension is structure and none of the prior art suggest this combination.



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EXAMINER

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.